PSAI announces Karleen Kos as new Executive Director

(MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, USA, 22 January 2014) – The Portable Sanitation Association International (PSAI) today announced the appointment of Karleen Kos as Executive Director, effective immediately.

Kos brings 25 years of experience in strategic leadership, organizational growth and relationship-building, having served most recently as Vice President of Member and Industry Services at the International Society for Pharmaceutical Engineering (ISPE). Prior to her tenure at ISPE, Kos was first Director of Field Operations, and then Director of Program Planning/Evaluation, for the US-based Alzheimer’s Association. In addition Kos has worked as the top executive in community nonprofit organizations and served on numerous volunteer Boards of Directors.

In her role at ISPE, Kos led the development of the organization’s strategic vision, and served as the key leader on industry initiatives focused on global drug shortages and patient experiences with clinical trials. Kos was also responsible for ISPE’s 19 technical communities, a network of some 40 global affiliates and chapters, membership development in 90 countries, and ISPE’s certification program for pharmaceutical professionals. Through these and other forward-thinking initiatives, she provided essential leadership as ISPE’s members confronted changes in industry business models, new competitive forces and the impact of globalization.

Outside ISPE Kos gained additional experience that will also benefit the PSAI. For example, she has been involved in setting globally recognized standards, creating curricula, and developing resources to assist stakeholders in adopting best practices. She has facilitated dialogue, strategic planning and joint ventures between multiple nonprofits, acted as the public spokesperson for various organizations, and served as a mediator in disputes between community stakeholders. She brings to the PSAI these relationship-building skills and links to industries and associations.

“Kos’s demonstrated ability to anticipate member and community needs, set a vision for success, then drive coordinated, dynamic efforts to achieve these strategic objectives makes her the ideal person to help us achieve our mission,” says 2013-14 PSAI Board Chairman Ron Crosier. “She will help the PSAI raise awareness of the portable sanitation industry to a level commensurate with its importance in addressing global sanitation and sustainability issues.”
“As the voice of the global portable sanitation industry, the PSAI is dedicated to assisting members and their companies in serving the public better all the time. Ideally, the PSAI is a resource for addressing diverse business, regulatory and environmental challenges. We function as the driver of innovation for next-generation sanitation practices,” continues Crosier. “Kos’s appointment comes at a time when the portable sanitation industry is positioned to make a substantial impact on global public health. This will happen through the solutions PSAI members can provide, but we need a staff executive to drive these efforts. Kos brings the right blend of knowledge and leadership experience to guide us in enhancing our value to members, our relevance to the industry, and our role as a catalyst for solutions that will positively influence global sustainability.”

Kos replaces William Carroll, who left the PSAI in 2012. Following a period of strategic evaluation and planning, the PSAI Board of Directors tapped Kos in late 2013. She assumes her role in Minneapolis the week of 20 January.

About PSAI

The Portable Sanitation Association International (PSAI) exists to expand and improve portable sanitation as part of a global approach to serving the public and sustaining the planet. As the largest trade association of its kind in the world, the PSAI is recognized internationally as a credible, authoritative voice providing education and tools to promote safety and health. Established in 1971, the PSAI develops and promotes industry standards; serves as a repository of information and resources for operators, suppliers, government entities and the general public; and provides recognition for excellence in the field. Through our efforts, the environment is a cleaner, safer place. The PSAI has its worldwide headquarters in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. Visit www.PSAI.org for additional Association news and information.

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